

2006 Local Accomplishments

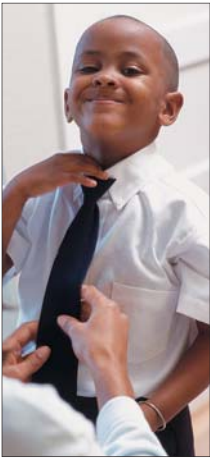
AID FOR TOWNS IN THE 11<sup>TH</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

A major part of my job representing the people of the 11th state Senate District is to ensure that New Haven and Hamden receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Total Education Grants	\$157,100,872	This funding is an increase of \$8,685,078 over last year's total
Town Aid Road Fund (TAR)	\$1,013,593	
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	\$12,462,106	
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	\$2,178,473	
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$45,561,698	
Extra Property Tax Relief for 2006	\$3,572,370	
Totals	\$221,889,113	

Kinship Navigator Program

Many constituents have called my office to ask about services and assistance available to those who have accepted the responsibility of caring for young relatives. That's why I'm proud to report that we passed new



legislation to require the Department of Children and Families along with other agencies to establish a kinship navigator program to help relative caregivers find services. Once established, the program will ensure that grandparents and other relative caregivers get information on the array of state services and benefits for which they may qualify, including the subsidized guardianship program.

Summer Youth Program

Young people in the 11th Senate District as well as across the state will benefit from a \$4 million investment in our statewide Summer Youth Employment programs. We know how important it is to help young people develop a work ethic, and we know how rewarding it is for young people to have succeeded in the workplace and to have earned a paycheck. Eligible young people will be screened to ensure family income requirements are met; those eligible must be 14 to 19 years old and participate in reduced-price or fully subsidized school meal programs.

A Message to My Constituents



Dear Neighbors,

On May 3rd, the 2006 legislative session came to a close. Our state Constitution dictates the beginning and closing times for each regular legislative session, and in this year's short session the General Assembly passed significant initiatives to make Connecticut a better place to work, live and educate our children. I have included some highlights of the session in this newsletter.

I am especially proud that a bipartisan budget was adopted that provides tax relief for residents on their homes and vehicles as well as for businesses, while providing a significant increase in aid to cities and towns to help hold down local property taxes. Our initiative includes an increase—from \$400 to \$500—on the state property tax credit on the personal income tax.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns or would like additional information.

Sincerely,  
*Martin Looney*  
Martin M. Looney  
State Senator, 11th District

Stay Informed...

For the latest information on the issues affecting our district, please visit my Web site:  
[www.senatedems.ct.gov/Looney.html](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/Looney.html)



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this form and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is listed on the address panel.

- ☐ Seniors
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Land Use
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Municipalities

Name:

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I'm proud to represent the 11th state Senate District which includes the communities of New Haven and Hamden

With the help of an increasing budget surplus, we were able to make many improvements to our existing FY '07 budget. And importantly, we were able to pass this budget on time and with bipartisan support. We used state resources to make significant investments in programs beneficial to the health, safety and education of Connecticut's residents. In addition, we are funding a cutting edge economic development program designed to create the kind of jobs needed to keep Connecticut vigorous and competitive in the 21st century.



We increased vital aid to cities and towns by \$60 million—an action necessary to help keep local property taxes down; deposited approximately \$350 million into the Rainy Day Fund; and fully funded the state Teachers' Retirement Fund in both FY '06 and FY '07 with \$246 million from the state surplus. Finally, one of our greatest achievements in this budget was to fight any effort to repeal the current property tax credit on the state income tax. In fact, we successfully fought to increase the car and property tax credit from \$400 to \$500.

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# CONNECTICUT JOBS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

## 2006 Legislative Initiatives

Increasing global competition and a rapidly changing economy have caused Connecticut to experience a lack of net job growth since the major recession of 1991. My Senate Democratic colleagues and I have initiated a comprehensive plan to address the need for job growth in order to steer our state toward a brighter future. Our legislative package provides for investment in education, jobs, university/business partnerships, transportation improvements, and the promotion of promising fuel cell technologies that have been developed right here in our own backyard.

### Highlights of our successful initiative include:

- **Elimination of the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment property tax** to attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut, especially the cutting-edge, precision manufacturing that is critical to our future economy
- **Tax incentives to attract motion picture companies** to film their productions here in Connecticut
- **Linking promising new businesses to the university expertise** that can help bring innovative products to market
- **A Center for Entrepreneurship** that will assist promising technologies—including fuel cells—develop right here in our state
- **More funding for incumbent worker training programs**, provided by regional workforce development boards, to help workers learn new and valuable skills
- **Creation of business incubators to help grow the small business ideas** that will fuel our economy and improve job creation across the state
- **Development Research and Economic Assistance Matching (DREAM) grants** that supplement and increase small businesses' access to federal research grants
- **A Business Advocate's office** to serve as a one-stop contact point for businesses to access government assistance and cut through red tape
- **Encouraging more engineering and doctoral research graduates to stay and to work in Connecticut** through a 'Scholar-to-Work' system which ensures that innovation and creativity will remain a hallmark of Connecticut's future in the growing world marketplace
- **Partnerships between local schools and businesses** to help more students master math and science as building blocks to careers in competitive fields
- **Teacher 'externships' that help link the skills taught in classrooms to those sought by employers**, and providing opportunities for students to participate in internship and job-shadow experiences in order to build relevant job skills
- **Asserting Connecticut's position as a global leader in the fuel cell industry** by improving clean energy alternatives in ways that grow jobs in this highly skilled sector
- **Promoting nanotechnology**—an industry that works at the molecular level—to establish Connecticut as a leader in developing complex materials sold to businesses around the world

## STATE SENATOR MARTIN M. LOONEY 11TH DISTRICT

# Working for Connecticut's Future

### Hospital-Acquired Infections

We have all heard about people who've gone into hospitals to get better, but unfortunately developed infections after being admitted. A new law will create a reporting system, providing the public with necessary information to compare infection rates at health care facilities in Connecticut. The system may also provide information about methods used to prevent the spread of infection. Beginning October 2008, this information will be published on a state Web site.



### Access to Imaging Services

Imaging services, such as MRIs and PET scans, are crucial in the diagnosis and proper treatment of certain diseases. However, some insurance companies have set copayments for these services so high that they are cost-prohibitive. A new law will set limits on the copayments that certain patients pay for these services, helping to ensure patients do not forgo these tests because of an inability to pay.

### Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

Early and accurate diagnosis is the key to the most effective treatment of breast cancer. New legislation passed this year will require certain insurance companies to cover comprehensive ultrasound screening for women with increased risk factors for breast cancer, as well as those whose mammograms indicate dense breast tissue. This law will help more women gain access to the best screening tools medical science can offer.

### Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools

We listened to Connecticut's nutritionists, physicians and parents and fought to provide our students with healthier food and beverage choices. Senate Democrats led passage of landmark legislation that bans the sale of soda and other sugary drinks in schools. It also provides towns three times as much in school lunch aid from the state if they provide healthy alternatives for their students. This incentive will promote the better nutrition and healthier lifestyles our kids deserve.

### Reaction to Tragedy in Sudan

The tragedy in Sudan has resulted in more than 3 million Sudanese people displaced and 400,000 dead. I sponsored legislation to halt state investments that could benefit the Sudanese government responsible for genocide, rape and starvation in the Darfur region of this beleaguered African country. By joining with universities, other states and countries to increase international economic pressure, Connecticut can play a role in stopping the shameful actions of the Sudanese government.

### Tax Credits for Historic Structures and for Housing

Our state has many older, historic structures that are now vacant and in desperate need of rehabilitation. We passed legislation that authorizes \$15 million per year in business tax credits for funds spent rehabilitating these properties for residential use. This incentive will help restore and beautify these buildings while providing housing and reinvestment to our communities. We also increased an existing Housing Tax Credit program from \$5 million to \$10 million annually to help meet the growing need for affordable housing.

### Clean Cars

The increased concentration of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides, in our atmosphere has the potential to negatively affect our climate. Since our vehicles emit these harmful gases, we passed legislation establishing a labeling program for new cars sold or leased for model years 2009 or later. The label will include a "greenhouse gas score" to help educate consumers on which vehicles are more environmentally sound and which have less detrimental impact.



### Discounts for Gasoline & Zone Pricing Ban

The Senate adopted what would have been a "first-in-the-nation" ban on gasoline zone pricing. The proposal prohibited gasoline refiners and producers from establishing price zones based on geography or other criteria. The legislation also allowed gasoline retailers to provide cash discounts to their customers, and required retailers to set prices based on the cost of gasoline in their possession and not on anticipated spikes in the market. Unfortunately, this bill did not receive final passage.

### Taking a Stand Against Underage Drinking

House parties pose a significant risk to our young people who consume alcohol on private property. The General Assembly passed a new law this session that makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage drinking on your private property or to do nothing to prevent such activity. This legislation extends the existing law by prohibiting the possession of alcohol by a minor on all private property as well as public property.

### Campaign Finance Reform and Ethics

We continued to strengthen our ethics laws in response to unprecedented corruption that occurred in our state. Legislation passed this year prohibits a governor's spouse from receiving honoraria and bans a governor from lobbying the state for at least one year after leaving office. We also continued to improve our strongest-in-the-nation campaign finance reform legislation by protecting the system's integrity in the event of a court challenge and further limiting political action committees (PACs).

## Roadmap to Connecticut's Economic Future

Understanding that a solid transportation infrastructure is critical to job creation, the General Assembly did not stop with last year's \$1.3 billion in transportation funding that will buy new rail cars for Metro North and make major improvements to I-95. During the 2006 session the legislature authorized another \$1 billion in projects that will help build the transportation future of our entire state. This legislation continues to build our mass transit infrastructure by authorizing:

- The creation of a New Haven to Springfield commuter rail line with a connection to Bradley International Airport
- \$60 million to be invested in new rail stations and new parking facilities along the New Haven Line and Shoreline East
- Creation of a West Haven/Orange rail station on the New Haven Line